Library of the
YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL
New Haven, Conn.
1944 no. 157-159
C

JANUARY, 1944. No. 157

THE BULLETIN

OF THE

Diocesan Association for Western China

CONTENTS

	Page
Letter from Bishop Song and Bishop Maxwell	1
Station Notes	2
Personal Notes	6
Prayer Cycle	7
Prayer for Western China	8
Special Subjects for Thanksgiving and Intercession	8

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

The Bulletin is sent free of charge to subscribers of 5/- or more per annum to the funds of the Diocesan Association. All other friends who wish to receive the magazine regularly are reminded that **the annual subscription of 2/- is now due** and should be sent, together with any change of address, to **Miss F. Hughes-Hallett, Kienning, Woodcote Avenue, Wallington, Surrey.** It is a real help and a saving of time, postcards and postage when subscriptions are paid promptly without the need of further reminder !

EDITOR'S NOTE.

No letters written specifically for the Bulletin have been received from either of the Bishops since those published in our last issue. It is thought, however, that readers will like to share in the more personal one from the Bishops in Western Szechwan which is printed below.

LETTER FROM BISHOP SONG AND BISHOP MAXWELL.

Chengtu.
August 27th, 1943.

Dear Miss Hughes-Hallett,

We are sorry that you were not informed earlier of the possible consecration of an Assistant-Bishop to this Diocese, but we did not like to write till we had had official news from the Archbishop of Canterbury that the appointment was confirmed by him. We appreciate very much the cable that was sent conjointly by the Diocesan Association, the C.M.S. and Dr. Anderson.

The consecration was a most happy occasion. Bishop Song led the service assisted by Bishop Bevan, and Bishop Hall preached the sermon. Representatives from all the Churches were present, and there was a spirit of quiet and reverence that was most marked. We are hoping that it will be possible to send you a snap of us sitting together

ZP
F826
no. 157-159

after the service. We are waiting to get it sent to India so that prints can be made, and when this has been done we will send copies to England.

In spite of the great financial difficulties under which we labour these days, the work goes along steadily. The cost of living is about 150 times what it was in 1937. It seems an absurd contrast, but it is a true one and brings home to people vividly the real financial situation, when it is reported that a kitten to-day is the value in dollars of five milch-cows of 1937. The work you are doing therefore in connection with the Association is one that we appreciate very much, for every pound received out here is most acceptable. More especially do we appreciate the prayer-support that is being given to us. It means added power to all the work of the Diocese. Without that prayer support so much of our ministry and the ministry of every worker in the Diocese is barren and ineffective. We know you will keep on pressing this point home upon our many supporters who have been so faithful and loyal to us. Generally speaking, people are more receptive in these war days, and we long for the presentation of a message that is supported by prayer in England and elsewhere, that will bring abiding satisfaction to heart and mind.

Bishop Song is hoping to spend a month at the Mienchu Hospital this October, and then visit Chongchiang for confirmation, and Bishop Maxwell will be visiting some of the other places where there are confirmation candidates. Then in the middle of November there is to be a Week of Witness here in Chengtu and throughout this Diocese. These are topics for prayer which we would wish you to bring before our friends.

Trusting that you are feeling much better now, and conveying our united good wishes to the members of the Association,

Yours gratefully,

C. T. SONG, Bishop.
H. A. MAXWELL, Asst. Bishop.

STATION NOTES.

Day 23. **Mienyang.**

After many vicissitudes, the Yoh Teh School is once again in a strong position and attracting good teachers and large numbers of students. By non-Christian schools it is called "The School where they worship." Ninety-eight students came voluntarily to the Good Friday service in church and about 50 come regularly on Sunday afternoons for Bible Study. Miss Belcher is to come home shortly for furlough, and prayer is asked for guidance in filling her place on the staff.

Since the temporary closing of the Women's School, Miss Ch'en, the Principal, has led the women's work in the parish. She has started a class for illiterates every evening which makes good progress. Mr. Sherwood visits Hsin-tien-tsï each week, and recently presented four students from the National Sixth School there for baptism. The Mienyang Harvest Collection last autumn amounted to $3.400.

Day 24. **Anhsien.**

This parish is now better staffed than it has been for some years. Deaconess Stewart spent some weeks there in September, helping the women's work. The Rev. and Mrs. Liu are doing a steady piece of uphill work in this place, which is a strong centre of Buddhism, so that results are few. The most encouraging feature is that of a private school where there are no less than six Christian teachers who openly witness to Christ among the other teachers and children.

Day 25. **Mienchu.**

The advent of Dr. Macrae of the Scottish Presbyterian Church to help in the Hospital until he is able to get down to his own hospital in Ichang, has been a great help. He was with Dr. and Mrs. Lechler in Edinburgh, so the Mienchu people feel they have an added link with those who have served them so faithfully in the past. The number of patients is going up, and a very difficult period of testing has been passed.

The Mienchu Vestry has decided to organise an Evangelistic Band, and a Church member has already offered to pay for the expense of hiring a preaching hall. A weekly Communion Service has been started, followed by tea and biscuits. The new pastor, the Rev. P. C. Fu, has received a warm welcome.

Day 26. **Tehyang.**

The Rev. S. C. T'ang is doing a promising work among students of the Shangtung National Sixth Middle School, in which his wife teaches. Those students who are led on to faith in Christ are commended to workers in Mienyang, where they complete their senior course of study. The preaching hall work is done every market day and the hall is usually filled.

Day 27. **Hanchow (Kwanghan).**

When the Rev. and Mrs. G. V. H. Eliott were appointed to work here, they found a vigorous church of which the foundations had been soundly laid by Archdeacon and Mrs. Donnithorne during their years of devoted service. There have been some recent baptisms, and others received into the catechumenate. In the country there are two churches which have come into being recently as the result of Archdeacon Donnithorne's tent campaigns; these are visited weekly, and

show considerable promise. The whole work of the parish is under the direction of the Rev. C. S. Wang, who has shown himself to be a very capable and hardworking pastor of souls.

A Retreat was held in July, when eleven missionaries gathered for prayer and Bible study. The church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Festival in the autumn, and the collection was four times as large as the previous year's. The Bishop came the next day and confirmed 16 people. At the beginning of October a team stayed at Lienshan for a week, holding Bible classes for the local church, and evangelistic meetings. In this campaign the workers had the help of Bishop Maxwell, the Rev. S. C. T'ang and Mr. S. W. Sherwood.

Day 28. **Sintu.**

Miss Jones' work among the officers and students of the Central Military Academy continues to grow, and leads in several cases to definite spiritual results, a number having been baptised recently. Pastor Keo is encouraged with the country work also, and one additional centre has been opened with promising results already.

Day 29. **Chongkiang.**

Miss Elder reports much encouragement in connection with the sale of Bibles, of which there is now an ample supply, as the Bible Society has had large numbers printed in Chengtu. In one week, for instance, two schoolmasters bought New Testaments and a schoolboy a Bible ; the next week, two bank clerks came and bought Bibles. The reading of the Bible often leads to something more definite, and a steady spiritual work is being done in this centre. It is a country church, however, and those who attend on Sundays are for the most part farmers, many of whom come long distances, even though the women have bound feet.

Day 30. **Chengtu.**

All the Universities opened for the autumn term with larger numbers than ever ; Nanking University has even more students in residence here than it had at Nanking. A small staff of the P.U.M.C. Hospital has also moved here and is working in co-operation with the other medical colleges. A considerable number of theological students graduated from the Union Theological College last summer, so that numbers are slightly smaller this term than last, but the number of S.K.H. students is larger. There are over 120 members of the S.K.H. studying on the entire Campus of the West China Union University, and about 20 members of the staffs of the four other Universities there belong to our church. The two high spots in the recent term's programme of religious work were the Confirmation Service, when 10 students and four teachers—many of them refugees from other parts of China—were confirmed ; and the evangelistic campaign conducted

by Bishop Shen. Bishop Shen, during his Mission, gave the most rounded picture of what Christianity means that we have had in recent years in the University. Four hundred or more students assembled each evening to hear him, despite the fact that several other prominent visitors to Chengtu were giving special lectures in the same week. A deep impression was made, and prayer is asked for the follow-up work now being conducted. At St. John's Church, the preaching hall work continues to have encouraging results.

An informal group of Chinese and Western Church leaders is now meeting to discuss the possibility of Church Union for the whole of China. Many Chinese leaders are pressing for this, being convinced that it is God's will and that such a union is necessary if the Church is going to prove adequate to post-war needs.

As a result of the Witness Week held at St. John's Church last year, it is hoped that several women will soon be baptised.

On Friday, September 17th, Chinese and foreign members of the Sheng Kung Hui living in Chengtu were privileged to enjoy a Quiet Day at Bishop Song's country house at So Po Ch'iao. There was one period for united prayer and thought in the morning and one in the afternoon, thus affording everybody opportunity for private meditation or relaxation and social intercourse.

At the morning meeting, the Bishop directed our thought by an outline of the conception of nature, man, God and immortality held by the writers of the Psalms. In the afternoon, the theme was Job—his source of strength when material possessions and friends failed. After each session problem questions were raised and discussed.

One question raised after the morning session was whether some of the Psalms full of desire for revenge upon the national enemy should be omitted from the Prayer Book in China. It was felt that they caused confusion to non-Christians and many simple Christians who could not reconcile such Psalms to a God whom they have been taught is Love. This led to discussion as to whether God should in any sense become "national" and we should pray for victory and return thanks for victories in the present war because we believed the Allied cause was a righteous one.

The afternoon discussion was an attempt to answer the question of why it is that suffering comes to man—especially why it comes to good people. It was generally accepted that suffering is not necessarily, though it may be, the direct result of sin ; that whatever comes from God is potentially good for the development of a Christ-like character in the individual.

Everybody present was, I think, struck by the relevance to the problems of to-day that our study of the Psalms and Job proved to have. We are indeed grateful to Bishop Song both for his addresses and for the refreshing day which he and Mrs. Song made possible for us.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Dr. John Toop has gone from Shunking to Paoning Hospital.

Dr. and Mrs. J. Broomhall have now left Paoning and gone to Western Szechwan in preparation for opening work among the Lo-su tribes.

Mr. Robert Harper has gone from Chungking to Paoning to take the place of **Mr. Stead,** business manager, now on furlough in Australia.

Mr. Derbyshire has been in Chungking for treatment to foot and ankle, and there is good hope of a quick recovery after suffering for two years.

Archdeacon and Mrs. V. H. Donnithorne arrived in England at the end of November. Since that time, he has been in hospital and has undergone one internal operation with the prospect of another as soon as he is fit for it. Mrs. Donnithorne, who suffered from dengue fever and dysentery while in India, is also still far from well.

The Rev. J. W. Duddington has now been appointed Rector of Broughton, Lincs.

The Rev. J. W. Rudd is probably not going to Kweiyang after all.

Miss G. Belcher has been recommended for furlough in England as soon as she can secure the necessary transport.

Mr. S. W. Sherwood (Church Army Chaplain) hopes to be married this month to Miss Grace Armstrong, of the American Methodist Mission, who has been working recently near Chengtu after teaching previously in East China. It is hoped that she may be able to help in the School at Mienyang when Miss Belcher leaves.

PRAYER CYCLE.

EASTERN SZECHWAN:

Day.

1. LANGCHUNG (PAONING). TANISHAN.
2. TS'IEN-FUH-CH'ANG.
3. ILUNG, TSANGKI, KIENKOH.
4. KWANGYUAN, CHAOHWA.
5. PACHUNG (PACHOW), NANCHIANG, TUNGKIANG.
6. NANPU, FU-TSUN-I, YENTING.
7. YINGSHAN, CHOWKOW.
8. NANCHUNG (SHUNKING), HSICHUNG.
9. KWANGAN.
10. YOCH'IH.
11. KUAN-IN-KOH, LINSHUI.
12. CHUHSIEN, WU-CHIA-CH'ANG.
13. TACHU.
14. TAHSIEN, SUANHAN.
15. WANYUAN, CHENGKOW.
16. LIANGSHAN, TIENKIANG.
17. KAIHSIEN, WEN-T'ANG-TSING, LIN-KIANG-SHIH.
18. WANHSIEN.
19. FENGKIEH (KWEIFU), YUNYANG, YUIN-AN-CH'ANG.

WESTERN SZECHWAN:

20. MOWCHOW.
21. P'ING-WU (LONGAN), KIANGYU.
22. CHONGPA.
23. MIENYANG (MIENCHOW).
24. ANHSIEN.
25. MIENCHU. SHIHFANG.
26. TEHYANG.
27. HANCHOW (KWANGHAN).
28. SINTU.
29. CHONGKIANG.
30. CHENGTU.
31. UNOCCUPIED PLACES.

PRAYER FOR WESTERN CHINA.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank Thee for Thy great love in redeeming us unto Thyself by the precious blood of Thy dear Son and for the gift of Thy sanctifying Spirit. May we show our love to Thee by loving the souls for whom Christ died, and by seeking to make known His glorious salvation throughout the world. We pray Thee to send down Thy heavenly blessing upon Thy servants, the Bishops and pastors of Thy flock in Western China, and all who are associated with them in their work for Thee. May Thy presence be with our missionary brethren and sisters who are seeking to bring the knowledge of Thee to those who know Thee not. May Thy Holy Spirit bless and prosper all their work and bring it to good success. We pray for those who have been baptised into Thy faith, fear and love that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of Thee. We pray also for those who know Thee not that they may be drawn by the cords of Thy Fatherly love to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, that they and we may work and pray together for the return of our King to establish His Everlasting Kingdom.

Finally, we pray that Thou wouldest comfort and strengthen all who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other anxiety; cheer and encourage all who are in special need of Thy help; and bring both them and us to Thy Heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Amen.

SPECIAL SUBJECTS FOR THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION.

LET US THANK GOD

For steady progress reported in all the work in Western Szechwan in spite of financial difficulties.

For good teachers and large numbers of students in the Yoh Teh School, and for good attendances at services and Bible Study.

For encouragement in Miss Chen's work among the women in Mienyang; and in the progress of the two new churches in the Hanchow district.

For the more hopeful outlook at Anhsien, and in the Mienchu Hospital.

For the demand for Bibles and the steady spiritual work being done in Chongkiang.

LET US PRAY

For the following up of Bishop Chen's Mission among students and the recent Week of Witness in Chengtu.

For guidance in the discussions on Church Union.

For God's blessing on the Evangelistic Band recently organised in Mienchu.

For all those who have been baptised and confirmed lately, especially the students at the Military Academy.

For Dr. and Mrs. Broomhall as they start work among the Lo-su people.

For restoration to health of Archdeacon and Mrs. Donnithorne and for the hoped-for quick recovery of Mr. Derbyshire.